

**Charles Pinckney
National Historic Site**

Long Range Interpretive Plan

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Superintendent

Date

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Introduction

Interpretation is about choices. Individuals choose what stories to tell, whom to tell them to and how to tell them. The choices are rarely easy.

The Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site's Interpretation and Visitor Services Division drafted three Long Range Interpretive Plans to guide interpretive services, including exhibits, waysides and presentations for the four sites administered by the National Park Service in the Charleston area. The sites include: Fort Sumter National Monument, the new Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center and ferry terminal at Liberty Square in downtown Charleston, Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site in Mt. Pleasant.

This action plan provides a vision for the future of interpretation and education. The projected life span of this document is five to ten years. It addresses both personal services and media, and is prepared by the park staff and park partners/community with a skilled facilitator in interpretive and education planning. It also provides the foundation elements for the Annual Implementation Plan and should be consistent with other current planning documents.

The precursor for a new interpretive plan actually began in 1988 with the addition of the Charles Pinckney National Historical Site. The seeds planted to interpret the history of the United States as a young nation allowed staff to examine life at Snee Farm and the contributions of all inhabitants. The broad concepts soon developed and through the efforts of the Friends of Snee Farm saw that the house open with temporary exhibits in 1995.

Staff members gathered on St. Helena Island in South Carolina in 1999 to begin talking about interpretation at all of the sites. The process evolved over the next four years as new exhibits and programs were planned for Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter and Charles Pinckney. In addition, Liberty Square was designed to be a gateway to the South Carolina lowcountry history and the sites beyond Charleston. The consensus was "Significant moments in American history are showcased at places now under the care of the National Park Service."

National Park Service interpretation at Charles Pinckney begins before the Revolutionary War as a colony of the British crown. The United States of America is born and starts its national journey. The Charles Pinckney site provides a view of how that journey began and endured while a young man named Charles Pinckney rose to power locally and nationally. The farm and its inhabitants tell the story of America's beginnings.

Part 1. Foundation

Purpose and Significance

The Charles Pinckney National Historic Site is administered with Fort Sumter National Monument. Separate legislation established the site under Public Law 100 – 421. The historic site was established **“to provide for the benefit, inspiration, and education of the American people”**

The law requires the Secretary to administer the site to:

- 1. Provide for the interpretation of the life of Charles Pinckney;**
- 2. Preserve and interpret Snee Farm, home of Charles Pinckney;**
- 3. Present the history of the United States as a young nation.**

The mission was further clarified by the House of Representatives Report 100-698 which, in part, states the following:

“The Secretary shall provide for the preservation and interpretation of Snee Farm and the life of Charles Pinckney. The Secretary shall also present the history of the United States as a young nation. The committee agrees with the testimony that the history of all inhabitants of Snee Farm, slave as well as free, should be interpreted. Snee Farm raised indigo, rice, cotton, and livestock with approximately forty slaves as its workforce. The Committee is concerned that Charles Pinckney as an individual be interpreted in the context of his time so that a full and accurate history is preserved and interpreted to the public”

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site is significant because:

- It is the only National Park Service (NPS) site in the Southeast Region related to the Constitution and one of its signers.
- Snee Farm is the only NPS site once owned by a signer of the Constitution during the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.
- The site offers an outstanding opportunity to learn about the social, political and economic environment of an 18th and 19th century lowcountry indigo and rice plantations, its place within the context of the United States as a new nation and its role in shaping its free and slave inhabitants.

- The archeological and other cultural resources at the site offer an outstanding opportunity to study, preserve and interpret the Snee Farm of the 18th century.

Themes

Interpretive themes communicate park significance. They embody the park's stories. Theme statements are the key ideas through which the park's resource values are conveyed to the public. These statements connect park resources to the larger processes, systems, ideas and values of which they are a part. The following themes and theme topics are derived from the National Park Service 1996 Thematic Framework and structured in terms of the park's purpose.

Theme 1: Peopling Places

Pinckney's Life

- Charles Pinckney's life within the Charleston and Snee Farm communities shaped his cultural values.
- Pinckney was a product of the English cultural traditions operating in the international seaport city of Charleston, but he was also very much aware of the African traditions at Snee Farm.
- His observations of the rice industry shaped his attitudes toward wealth and power and the practices necessary to maintain them.
- Pinckney's experience as a man of wealth and privilege as a planter was common throughout the lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia.

Historic Snee Farm

- Snee Farm had special meaning to all those, both slave and free, who called it "home."
- Snee Farm was one of six properties owned by Charles Pinckney and represented an extension of the traditional English value of real property as the measure of wealth.
- Many African/Gullah traditions and practices, adapted to and sustained by Snee Farm and other lowcountry South Carolina and Georgia plantation communities, have spread throughout the United States.

Theme 2: Shaping the Political Landscape

Pinckney's Life

- Charles Pinckney carried on his family's tradition by entering politics at an early age.
- Unlike other privileged young men, Pinckney lacked a "finished" education in England and seemed to harbor feeling of inferiority, which may have contributed to his drive, achievement and independence as a young statesman. Later in his life he became socially and political independent from the Charleston aristocracy, aligned with midland and upcountry interests and had friendships with other "outsiders," including Pierce Butler.

U. S. as a Young Nation

- Pinckney's political decisions, shaped by the rice industry and its preservation, influenced local, state, regional and national politics.
- As a participant-observer in colonial politics and a shaper of the early republic, Charles Pinckney recognized that race and slavery were sectional issues that could divide the nation.
- The Constitution, as written in 1787, sanctioned the South's socioeconomic institutions.

Historic Snee Farm

- Snee Farm and its operation as a plantation was an example of the property and system that Pinckney and others protected as a sectional interest to preserve their livelihood.
- Snee Farm, as one of many rice plantations, contributed to the preservation of African life ways.

Theme 3: Transforming the Environment

Historic Snee Farm

- When Africans arrived at Snee Farm they brought technical knowledge and labor patterns associated with a wide variety of rice strategies developed in a great diversity of environments.

- Rice plantations and rice agriculture substantially altered landscape and settlement patterns in coastal South Carolina and Georgia.

Theme 4: Changing Role of the United States in the World Community

Pinckney's Life

- Pinckney's primary role as Minister to Spain was to gain navigation rights on the Mississippi River. This fit very well with his attitude toward expansionism and the western frontier and foreshadowed the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Louisiana Purchase.

U. S. as a Young Nation

- The triangle (Europe, Caribbean Islands and America) trade, an operation built on slavery, developed a national economy and supported the eventual emergence of the United States as a world power.
- The triangle trade established long-term market connections with and in Britain, France, Spain and Italy.

Snee Farm

- The rice plantation at the farm represented one of many crops in the nation's international markets.
- The Gullah culture, developed and sustained by the African majorities in the lowcountry, was dispersed to Spanish Florida, Sierra Leone, Canada, Mexico, the American West and elsewhere by 1825.

Management Goals

Park management has established the following goals in the 1994 General Management Plan:

- to interpret Charles Pinckney's role in framing the Constitution.
- to present Charles Pinckney's role in South Carolina's transition from a colony to a state within the context of the young nation.
- to create a sense of time and place which allows the visitor to experience the Snee Farm, a modest lowcountry plantation community, during Charleston's Golden Age.
- to maintain the basic structure of the house at Snee Farm as a classic architectural example of an early 19th century lowcountry plantation house.
- to identify, protect and interpret limited examples of historic agricultural open space and selected archeological resources at Snee Farm related to the Pinckney period (1730-1820s), including foundations, formal gardens and pathways.
- to present the rural and agricultural character surrounding Snee Farm by promoting conservation of adjacent important cultural and natural resources, including views to and from the site, wetlands, scenic corridors and other site features.

Desired Visitor Experience

Visitor experience statements describe how the interpretive program facilitates physical, intellectual and emotional experiences for visitors. Persons visiting the site should have an opportunity to:

- Visitors are oriented to the resource and facilities through contemporary means. They are introduced to the compelling stories and interact with park staff.
- Visitors are greeted by NPS personnel and have adequate facilities to provide shelter, restrooms and interpretive facilities.
- Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the Charles Pinckney NHS.

- The Park contributes to the knowledge of cultural resources and associated values, and bases management decisions on scholarly and scientific information.
- Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Visitors gain an understanding of the landscape at Snee Farm during the Pinckney years.
- Visitors are able to answer the site's key questions:
 1. What were the effects of Charles Pinckney's lowcountry upbringing on his world view and political stance?
 2. What was the world setting of the U. S. Constitution and Charles Pinckney's politics?
 3. What was Charles Pinckney's role in drafting and securing the ratification of the Constitution and in the political life of the young nation?
 4. The Constitution is a "living document." What effect does it have on our lives today?

Issues and influences Affecting Interpretation

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site is a relatively new site entering Phase III of interpretive development outlined in its 1994 Interpretive Prospectus. Such development focuses on themes, additional personal and nonpersonal services, a contact station, more site bulletins, additional research and symposia and lectures. Many issues identified in the site's 1992 management objectives workshop are still valid. They include:

1. Distinguishing or relating the site to surrounding visitor attractions. Currently the site is still not well-known. The park is a member of the newly formed East Cooper Heritage Tourism Committee, which is a coalition of attractions located east of the Cooper River. The attractions represented in the committee have made an agreement to support each other in the tourism industry. The committee is currently developing a marketing strategy.

2. The newest issue to emerge is the incorporation of the site's African/Gullah cultural themes into the program. This will be an ongoing process. Congress is currently examining the issue of possibly establishing a local site for interpreting the Gullah culture. It will not be the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.
3. The widening of the intersection of Long Point Road at Route 17 may lead to the possibility of affecting the historic view shed. The Long Point Road area from the intersection at Route 17 has expanded to four lanes about ¼ mile towards the Pinckney and Boone Hall sites. There is currently no plan to do so but the continued growth of the subdivisions in Mount Pleasant may force the issue.
4. Currently two local commercial tour companies bring groups of people to the site on a regular basis. There is no policy in place to manage commercial tours in the park. They are a welcome addition to our visitation but the NPS should be vigilant that group members are receiving accurate information.
5. Homeland security has become a major issue since the events of 9/11/2001. Funding for interpretation and visitor services has been affected through national assessments preventing the division from filling vacant positions.
6. Increased visitation is expected at Charles Pinckney NHS over the next five to ten years. Efforts have been expanded to provide curriculum based education programs for SC schools. Visitation has been steady over the last five years averaging 35,000 visitors a year. A minimal 15% increase is expected over the next five to ten years as traveling patterns continue to make day trip destinations more popular.
7. The park recognizes the Internet and influence of World Wide Web. The website for the Charles Pinckney NHS will be updated in 2004 in the new format. It will be expanded and allow Internet users access to exhibits currently on display as well as additional information and research. All documents and programs will soon be available on our websites increasing information and promotion of the sites.
8. Mount Pleasant transportation issues continue to sometimes impede visitor access to the sites. Bridge construction and the phenomenal growth of the area have increased travel time to get to the site for school groups and commercial tour groups.
9. School group funding has been an issue for many years. Area schools do not have adequate funding for transportation to our sites. The park has sought outside funding for low income area and special needs

schools but sources have been drying up as the cost of fuel and liability increases.

10. Accessibility to historic areas continues to be an issue for many physically impaired visitors. The aging population of America contributes to concerns as well. Uneven and eroding surfaces challenge even physically able visitors.
11. The park is not looking forward to the acquisition of additional federal lands within its boundaries. Local residents and activist groups have mentioned the National Park Service when trying to preserve or prevent growth to some areas in and around the harbor.
12. Funding for the division and the park continues to erode. Staffing is now 98% of the budget leaving few funds for training, supplies and materials and printed materials. Eastern National, a park cooperating association has provided funding for divisional needs and training. In the future Eastern may be asked to assist with fee collection and to pay for supplies and materials used by the visitor.
13. Budget erosion through regional and WASO assessments, increased health benefit premiums, step increases, ranger futures and CSRS difference
14. Special park uses have increased by 274% since 1998. The opening of Liberty Square has provided green space for special permits including performing arts, demonstrations and events. Fort Moultrie has seen an increase in request for the use of the auditorium for town meetings, political debates and graduations. Charles Pinckney is generally the site of weddings and small family gatherings. These uses are consistent with community outreach programs.
14. Limited staffing has necessitated large employment of park volunteers. Increased volunteer activity now provides consistent coverage of information desks at the four sites, Monday through Friday mornings. Volunteers provide orientation and information services at the three other sites. Park staff provides most of the site coverage on weekends, since few volunteers are available.
15. Increased interest in the sites has produced overwhelming interest in the website. Expanded services will provide virtual tours of all of the sites.
16. The exhibits located in the house will be replaced with permanent exhibits. The open, covered area of the comfort station will be expanded and enclosed to become the park's visitor center and primary contact station. The house will be operated as a museum, with offices in the west

wing and a classroom in the east wing. The concept plan was completed in 2003.

Visitor Profiles

The following demographic assessment of the Charleston area was taken primarily from the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce's 2000 Visitor Inquiry Survey Results, Visitor Industry Impact Overview and 2002 visitor attraction counts.

The impact of the visitor industry in the Charleston metropolitan area (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties) is \$4.7 billion annually with an estimated 4.3 million visitors for 2002. Using the most recent figures available, Charleston was ranked in 1995 by *Conde Nast Traveler* as among the top twenty destinations in the world. Primary reasons for visiting the Charleston area are its history and variety of historic sites. Residents from South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Ohio, New York, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, and New Jersey represent the top ten origin states.

The Charleston metro area serves more than 92,000 students within 128 public schools, and 25 private and parochial schools. The area is served by five colleges and universities.

These visitation figures do not include those for a three-part attraction destination in downtown Charleston which opened after the 2000 survey was conducted. This three-part attraction includes the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center, the South Carolina Aquarium and the IMAX Theater (collectively known as Liberty Square). During the first full year of the site's use, visitation for Liberty Square totaled approximately 785,000. Of these visitors the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center received 158,000. Fort Sumter visitation in 2002 was 300,000. 2003 figures are currently below this record attendance.

Although most of the interpretive services will "speak" to most of the audiences, there are some audiences that are under-served, could be served more effectively or are potential audiences. At Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, services will be inclusive and mainstreamed as much as possible. To ensure that particular needs are not forgotten, the site staff will pay particular attention to meeting the needs of the following visitor groups:

- Students – This sector currently makes up a large proportion of the annual visitation. The site encourages student visits and has done so since opening to the public. Currently, students have access to a classroom and audiovisual room at the house. As circumstances permit, this program

should be expanded both on and off-site. In addition, the site will continue to take every advantage of the Service's "Parks as Classrooms" program as well as seek out a formal partnership with at least one nearby school.

- **American Adults –** Slavery was a way of life at Snee Farm before, during and after Charles Pinckney's occupation. Congress recommended that the site should be interpreted in the context of his time. The site offers an outstanding opportunity to interpret the Snee Farm socioeconomic community as revealed through archeology and additional research. Furthermore, the influence and contribution of African-Americans, both slave and free, to the growth of the young nation can be emphasized.
- **Seniors –** Charleston and Charleston County place a great emphasis on tourism. Numerous motor coach tours make Charleston their destination. This trend will continue and most likely increase as the population group grows into the next century. The needs of seniors – appropriate text size, content, and technique – must be considered in the development of all interpretive media.
- **International Visitors –** Non-English speaking visitors may create a need for specific interpretive services. As the site develops, this potential need will be closely monitored and, as necessary, appropriate translations of interpretive media will be prepared.
- **Physical and Program Access –** Buildings, roads, trails and interpretive media will incorporate Americans With Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines in order to assure access for the site audience. Information and education media will be planned and designed to meet programmatic accessibility guidelines for interpretive media established by Harpers Ferry Center.

Consideration should also be given to those persons who make use of resources and programs without actually visiting the site. This is particularly true of persons using electronic (Internet) access. In Calendar Year 2002 the Fort Sumter Group websites received 255,000 "virtual visitors," a 200% increase over CY1999 (base year).

Existing Interpretive Conditions

Highway signs direct visitors to both Boone Hall and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. Many visitors do not wish to pay for services at Boone Hall and so come across the street to the NPS site. Visitors are greeted by an employee or volunteer as they enter the park visitor center, located in an early 18th century

farmhouse. The visitor has three main interpretive activities: perusing the museum exhibits, watching one of two 20-minute videos, and walking a ½ mile trail.

Museum exhibits are located in three of the four main rooms of the house. The fourth room contains a cooperating association bookstore and information desk. The exhibits were manufactured in 1995 as temporary interpretive devices focusing on four main areas: Charles Pinckney's contributions to the US Constitution, archeology at the site, the United States as a young, emerging nation, and South Carolina Lowcountry plantation life. These exhibits are inadequate in that new information has revealed inaccuracies and most of them are in need of repair. Currently the park is developing a new exhibit plan.

The two videos offered are *A Founding Father* and *Blessings of Liberty*, both 20 minutes long. The former is a site-specific program produced by South Carolina Educational TV, and the latter a documentary about the framing of the Constitution. Recent archeological information has rendered *A Founding Father* obsolete.

The interpretive trail consists of gravel, grass and mulched pathways forming a rough loop from the house through the historic driveway, the archeological site of a slave community, a nature trail, a boardwalk and a small-scale reproduction rice trunk. There are no wayside exhibits. The visitor uses a handout consisting of a map of the park highlighting the trail and various stops on one side, and a key to the stops on the other. Visitors match the numbered posts found along the trail to the key.

On weekends, ranger programs are offered twice per day when staffing allows. These programs vary from guided tours to orientation talks. Frequently only one employee is available to operate the visitor center. Formal programs are not available. Employees and volunteers provide roving interpretation when staffing allows.

Currently the only publication available is the NPS Unigrid folder, which includes a safety message insert. Several site bulletins are either planned or in production, including the topics of archeology at the site and African-Americans at Snee Farm.

Special interpretive programs are planned regularly twice per year. During the months of February and March the park hosts a series of programs highlighting Colonial heritage. They include dramatic interpretation, colonial craft demonstrations, and African-American and Gullah arts and crafts. These programs are conducted each weekend during the period. Each September the park hosts a naturalization ceremony where 150-200 new citizens are sworn. This program is generally held on September 17th, Constitution Day. Both the

heritage programs and the naturalization program have proven to be popular with the public and have drawn considerable media attention.

Part 2. Future Interpretive Programs

Personal Services

Future interpretive programs are severely limited due to staff shortages. Grants have been sought to provide staff but have been generally unsuccessful. At this writing only school programs with reservations and daily talks twice a day on demand are expected to continue.

Non-personal Services

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site covers an area of 28 acres. Many of the interpretive opportunities recommended by the 1994 Interpretive Prospectus have already been added to the program.

As a small site, it is ideal for the interpretation of landscape features linked by a single trail that presents a variety of pleasing visual perspectives of the house at Snee Farm. For this reason, the synopsis is organized, from the visitor's point of view, as a series of stops along the trail. Recommendations for the relocation and rehabilitation of existing media and the addition of new media or personal services appear in bold type. Refer to the section entitled "Implementation Plan" for the synopsis.

Partnerships

The Friends of Historic Snee Farm, Inc. was formed in 1986 when the last remaining 28 acres of Charles Pinckney's Snee Farm was sold to a land developer. Over the course of two years the group managed to raise two million dollars to purchase the property, which they subsequently donated to the National Park Service. The Friends continue to play an important role in supporting and funding various projects, such as archeological excavations at the site and interpretive exhibits.

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site is a member of the newly formed East Cooper Heritage Tourism Committee, which is a coalition of attractions located east of the Cooper River. The attractions represented in the committee have made an agreement to support each other in the tourism industry. The committee is currently developing a marketing strategy.

The park is also part of a new partnership formed between the National Park Service and the South Carolina State Park Service. These two agencies have signed an agreement to mutually support each other's missions and activities.

Unilever and Wal-Mart have partnered successfully at all three sites (Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter and Charles Pinckney). These companies work together to partner with National Park Sites throughout the country. At Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter benches made from recycled materials have been built and donated by the partner companies and park volunteers. Plastic lumber has been provided for bench repairs on an as needed basis. Clear Seas Communications, Inc. is our contact for these services.

Clear Seas Communications, Inc. is a local public relations firm and one of the strongest Friends the sites have partnered with. Numerous donations of planning time for events and making arrangements for caterers and press coverage have been donated for many park events.

The town of Mount Pleasant has been very generous allowing the use of their tents for special events at Charles Pinckney. The town has also provided funding for cultural programs at Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney NHS.

Library and Collection needs

All items and materials should be pertinent and relevant to Charles Pinckney and the National Historic Site. However, items concerning Charles Pinckney NHS as a result of a natural disaster (hurricane, earthquake, etc.) and other significant (Bicentennial, etc.) events should be included.

Acquisition of materials and recent publications regarding building the Gullah Community are important to interpreting the site.

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site shares library resources with the Fort Sumter Group Library located at the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center. There is a small library on site that needs expansion to meet research needs.

Archeological research has been ongoing for several years. The site has a modest but significant museum collection as a result of this research. Topics for further research are:

- Archeological Research: Continued research and analysis of excavated objects is vital to the understanding of the role of Snee Farm in Charles Pinckney's life and the integrity of site's stories.
- Material Cultures Research: Little material culture remains that directly relates to Charles Pinckney. Archeological research will continue to be a

major source for material culture. An assertive effort needs to be made to locate any other surviving material culture.

Research Needs

All items and materials should be pertinent and relevant to Charles Pinckney and the National Historic Site. However, items concerning Charles Pinckney NHS as a result of a natural disaster (hurricane, earthquake, etc.) and other significant (Bicentennial, etc.) events should be included. Currently, the site has appropriate landscape planning

Special Studies Needed: Charles Pinckney was a complex and extraordinary individual. To better understand his role in the leadership of the young nation and the drafting of the Constitution, the following topics need further study:

- Charles Pinckney's landholdings.
- A comprehensive history of Christ Church and its relationship with Snee Farm, Mount Pleasant and Charleston during Pinckney's era.
- Slave life in the 18th century in Charleston and Christ Church Parish.
- Inland settlement from the lowcountry to the upcountry of South Carolina.
- Land ownership and crops of plantations near Snee Farm during the Pinckney era.
- Influences of Pinckney's mother, Francis Brewton; wife, Mary Eleanor Laurens; and aunt Eliza Lucas Pinckney on his character development.
- Pinckney's influence on the lives of his children.
- The emergence of sectionalism in the nation during the Federalist Period.

Staffing Needs

Current Conditions

Staff is as follows:

Chief of Visitor Services	GS 0025 – 12	1.0 FTE
Assistant Chief of Visitor Services	GS 0025 – 11	1.0 FTE
Lead Ranger Fort Moultrie	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Lead Ranger Fort Sumter	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Lead Ranger Charles Pinckney	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Back up Ranger	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Education Specialist	GS 0000 – 11	1.0 FTE
Historian	GS 0000 – 11	1.0 FTE
3.0 Park Guides	GS 0090 – 5	3.0 FTE
2 - .5 Park Guides (one fee, one seasonal)	GS 0090 – 4	1.0 FTE
Total FTE		12.0

Current staffing provides less than minimal staff at four sites. The Charles Pinckney site has the lowest visitation and is regularly staffed with only the lead ranger. Volunteers supplement on most days. Two additional Park Guides are needed to provide seven-day coverage. The backup ranger serves as lead for two days and when the lead is on leave. The Assistant Chief, Historian and Education Specialist serve as back-up for large groups and during severe staff shortages. Severe staffing shortages are now occurring weekly requiring one or more specialists to attend to front-line duties two to three days a week.

Fort Sumter is minimally staffed with two employees. Visitation is approximately 275,000 a year with numerous school and senior groups through nine of 12 months a year. Staffing guidelines for visitor safety for the fort area is one ranger per 100 visitors. This ratio is rarely achieved during peak season.

In FY 1999 the division reorganized to allow higher staffing levels by utilizing visitor use assistants to replace vacant ranger positions. Generally, for every interpretive ranger position the park could employ 1.5 visitor use assistants. This change brought staffing levels closer to minimum levels. Due to rising personnel costs this base has continued to erode. Two employees on staff were converted to the positions of education specialist and assistant chief of visitor services in FY 2000 to assist with operations. In 2002, all visitor use assistants were converted to park guides to better address interpretive division needs.

DESIRED FUTURE STAFFING

Four sites consisting of Liberty Square (LS), Charles Pinckney NHS (CHPI), Fort Moultrie (FOMO), Fort Sumter National Monument (FOSU) for seven day operations and extended hours at FOSU from April through Labor Day:

Chief	GS 0025 12	1.0 FTE
Assistant Chief (LS)	GS 0025 11	1.0 FTE
Historian	GS 11	1.0 FTE
Research Assistant	GS 5/7	.8 FTE
Education Specialist	GS 0000 11	1.0 FTE
Education Assistant	GS 0000 5/7	.8 FTE
Park Ranger (LS)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (FOMO)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (FOSU)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (CHPI)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (Back-up)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Guide LS	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide LS	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide LS/FOSU	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide CHPI	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide CHPI	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOSU	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOSU	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOMO	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOMO	GS 5	1.0 FTE
TOTAL		19.5 FTE

Discussion is underway for an additional staffed departure point. If it is added, an additional Park Ranger GS 0025 and two Park guides would be necessary to provide coverage seven days a week for a total of 3.0 FTE's

Ideal boat schedules would have four boats leaving from Liberty Square ten months a year March - December. They would be:

9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

January and February schedule would be 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Alternate site from Mt. Pleasant, April through Labor Day:

10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

After Labor Day 10:45 a.m. boat would be discontinued until spring annually.

In addition to paid staff, the site will continue its development of a strong volunteer program to complement the permanent staff. Volunteers enhance the special topic programs and demonstrations and provide assistance in other areas of visitor services. Furthermore, a successful volunteer program will increase community awareness of the site and deliver a higher level and greater variation of interpretive programming and services.

Fort Sumter is now two sites requiring coverage at Liberty Square and Fort Sumter NM. A minimum of two employees is required for both sites. This staffing requirement has always prevailed at Fort Sumter during high season.

Liberty Square opened in August 2001. Staffing has allowed two employees at the site on average six days out of seven. The Assistant Chief often serves as the second employee four to five days a week. Visitation to Fort Sumter was over 300,000 visitors in 2002. Liberty Square welcomed over 150,000 visitors in its first year. Volunteers provide limited information services at the Visitor Education Center and ride the tour boat to present safety talks when possible.

The Lead Ranger provides back up for the Assistant Chief. Ideally staffing for Fort Sumter is set at one employee per 100 visitors. Visitation in April and June, July and August is often at capacity of the island currently set at 385 people per tour boat. The staff to visitor ratio has never been adequately funded. Volunteers, when available, provide a third person to allow three employees to 385 visitors.

Interpretive Program Costs

Interpretive program costs for Charles Pinckney National Historic Site are significantly out of balance from the recommended ratios of 90% for personnel and 10% for supplies and materials. This difference is offset by use of cooperating association donated funds to supply much of our needed interpretive materials.

Total interpretive funds allocated in early FY 2003 were \$223,000 by the close of the fiscal year the amount had shrunk to \$221,000. Of that funding \$215,000 was spent on personnel leaving \$6,000 for supplies and materials, training and travel needs. Increasingly the needs for interpretative tools are being funded through the donations account and Eastern National. Costs for funding interpretive exhibits other than ONPS include cyclic, concession and donation accounts.

Implementation Plan

Stop 1 – Parking Area and Orientation Shelter

Visitors arrive in a natural setting of live oaks where their attention is drawn to a combination restroom and covered gathering area adjacent to the parking lot. A three-panel kiosk adjacent to this building provides basic information about the site and the National Park Service's other sites in the Charleston area, Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie. (Similar waysides at these sites provide basic information about the Charles Pinckney site.) This facility will be enlarged by approximately 2200 square feet to accommodate a **contact station, museum exhibit, bookstore, audiovisual presentation and a gathering area** on its west facade. As the introductory interpretive opportunity for visitors, services here will focus on the broad range of themes identified earlier in this plan.

CONSTRUCTION COST: \$1,000,000

AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION: \$ 280,000

Stop 2 – Trail

A trail, surfaced with a natural soil cement or similar product, will leave from the southwest side of the contact station. An **archeology wayside** will describe the sub-surface research conducted in the immediate area. Corners of the buildings and other features may be identified with ground markers to provide visual context for the wayside descriptions.

ARCHEOLOGY WAYSIDE: \$4000

Stop 3 –Trail

The trail precedes west to the vicinity of the house where a **series of waysides** will provide perspectives of the historic scene from Charles Pinckney's time. The waysides will incorporate the results of the archeological investigations conducted nearby.

PERSPECTIVE WAYSIDES: \$12,000

Stop 4 – The House at Snee Farm

Visitors will be directed into the house at the south entrance where they will see two rooms of museum exhibits about Charles Pinckney and the United States Constitution. The book sales and classroom functions in the two adjoining rooms will be removed to the contact station. These rooms will be used to provide additional essential **museum exhibits with audiovisual interpretation** on the Pinckney and African/Gullah stories at Snee Farm, 1750 to 1825.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT: \$150,000

Stop 5 – Trail

Visitors will leave the house on the north side and proceed on a brief walk to the low, shaded bluff and wetlands on the west edge of the site. Here, rice agriculture, transportation and additional African/Gullah themes will be interpreted through a **series of four waysides and a short boardwalk** to the river.

BLUFF WAYSIDES: \$16,000

Stop 6 – Slave House Sites

The trail meanders along the bluff and forest edge, emerging on the south side of a small grove of trees on a flat and somewhat higher arc of land. Several slave houses once stood here. Archeological investigations should reveal many of the details of the occupation of this place. It will be an ideal site for **four additional waysides** featuring landscape perspectives and African/Gullah culture, especially persistence and social adaptations of family and community structure and work.

SLAVE HOUSE WAYSIDES: \$16,000

Stop 7 – Historic Entrance Road

From the house sites, visitors will walk the trail east to its intersection with the historic farm entrance from Kings Highway (U.S. 17). The entrance road, leading directly to the entrance of the existing circa 1828 farm house, features several large cedar trees which have survived as remnants of a once stately row of trees lining both sides of the road. The road and its perspective revive the classic image of the Southern estate. The large, adjacent and now empty fields provide an opportunity for a **wayside** interpreting the agricultural crops and practices that sustained the wealth, class, political thought and influence of the Pinckney era.

HISTORIC ENTRANCE ROAD EXHIBIT: \$4,000

Stop 8 – Trail Intersection

The trail proceeds along the historic entrance road to the intersection with Stop 3, where visitors have the option of returning to the house or the contact station and parking lot.

COST SUMMARY

CONSTRUCTION : Includes enclosing building, exhibit planning and production	1,000,000
AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTION:	280,000
MUSEUM EXHIBITS: House at Snee Farm	150,000
WAYSIDE EXHIBITS:	52,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL:	\$1,482,000

FY 2004 VISITOR SERVICES EVENTS

February CHPI	Black History Month Programs every weekend
April FOMO	“The First Shot” – a formal interpretive program will center around the events of April 12 th for all ferry passengers The burial of the Hunley Crew will bring around 250 re-enactors to Fort Moultrie to provide living history programs for the public
May - September CHPI	Constitution Program – Founding Fathers Charles Pinckney and his Contributions to the Constitution every weekend through the end of the calendar year
June FOMO	“The Battle of Fort Sullivan”
July LS FOMO	Viewing Fire works African American Gullah Program
August FOMO	“Reach for Fun” (a program developed to bring underprivileged children to Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney)
September CHPI	INS ceremony “A celebration of the Constitution”
September FOMO	Beach Sweep

Planning Team

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FORT SUMTER GROUP

John Tucker, Superintendent
Fran Norton, Chief of Visitor Services
Dawn Davis, Assistant Chief of Visitor Services
Richard Hatcher, Historian
Michael Allen, Education Specialist
Mark Davis, Lead Park Ranger, Fort Moultrie
Bill Martin, Lead Park Ranger, Charles Pinckney NHS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

John Beck, Resource Education Specialist/Planner